

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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1. **THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE** is published every Thursday. (52 issues per year.) It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairy-men, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.
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Publisher to Reader.

Persons unfamiliar with the inner workings of a publishing office, can form no adequate conception of the thought, labor and outlay involved in an issue like the present number of "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine." It was necessary to begin preparations early in the year for many of the articles and artistic features with which these pages are replete. In addition to regular editorial pens, the special services of several capable Canadian and British contributors were enlisted, so that our readers would have a varied menu, worthy the delectation of the very foremost farmers in the world. We have also aimed to make it representative of more than Canadian agriculture in its best and most progressive aspects. A corps of the foremost artists of Canada have contributed of their best productions to its pages, Messrs. F. H. Brigden, of the Toronto Engraving Company (makers of the engravings); C. M. Manly, A. R. C. A.; G. A. Reid, Pres. R. C. A., and Paul Wickson devoting themselves assiduously to the subjects presented in the three-color process. To the London Printing & Lithographing Company belongs the credit of the typography and presswork, the magnitude of which may be inferred from the fact that it required upwards of a third of a million impressions before the printed sheets left the great presses, ready for the binding and mailing department.

To our subscribers this issue goes as the regular number of the paper for December 13th, without extra charge, but should they wish additional copies for mailing to friends, these may be obtained for 25 cents each, or by non-subscribers for 50 cents.

Our subscribers who are taking advantage of the special offer to have their own subscription extended free for one year, by sending us two new subscribers, enclosing \$3.00, or for six months by sending one new subscriber and \$1.50, will be pleased to know that they can promise each new subscriber a copy of this beautiful number. This offer is good only till Dec. 31st, 1906.

THE SHEPHERD'S COLLIE

HIS ORIGIN USES & SAGACITY

BY RALPH FLEESH



Turk Watching the Rescuing

Process of His Master.

Writers on evolution, more particularly the disciples of the Pyrrhonic School, invariably indulge their genius by painting Science and Philosophy standing helpless on the brink of a great chasm, which vacuum is supposed to represent the absent links between human and animal intelligence. There is more imagination than real fact in this representation, for if the reasoning capacity be taken as a criterion, the highly-trained shepherd's collie will be found, in many cases, to leave his master far behind. There is more scientific data in a shepherd's cot than in all the laboratories in the world.

About the origin of the collie there has been much speculation. A theory currently held was that he came to us through the ancestry of the fox. That he belongs to the same family (Canidae), is doubtless true, but there are many distinguishing features which seem to argue against the claims of direct kinship.

The legend is that an old shepherd, one beautiful summer evening, lay upon the mountain-side. With the love of a father he looked on his flock, covering the plain and stretching far away out to the distant summits, and a tear stole into his eye as he thought that he must soon take farewell of those rugged scenes and their timid in-

Moved by this mental phenomena, the old man threw out his arms, slowly opened his eyes, and lo, there lay in his bosom a young fox. With a look of entreaty, the ancient enemy of the flock crept close to its protector and guide; and, after a few moments of deep reflection, in which the shepherd recalled the vision of his dream, he tenderly raised young Reynard in his arms, carried him home, and soon found him a true helper and friend.

We do not offer this as an authentic contribution towards the annals of canine history, although there are instances of the wings of a national faith having been thrown round records with a less semblance of truth and altogether wanting in the moral of our tale. It is quite legitimate, of course, to refuse credence to the story, even without questioning; nor can those be blamed who regard with suspicion and scorn any attempt to impair its beauty and charm, by having it subjected to the cold and stale standards of demonstrated fact.

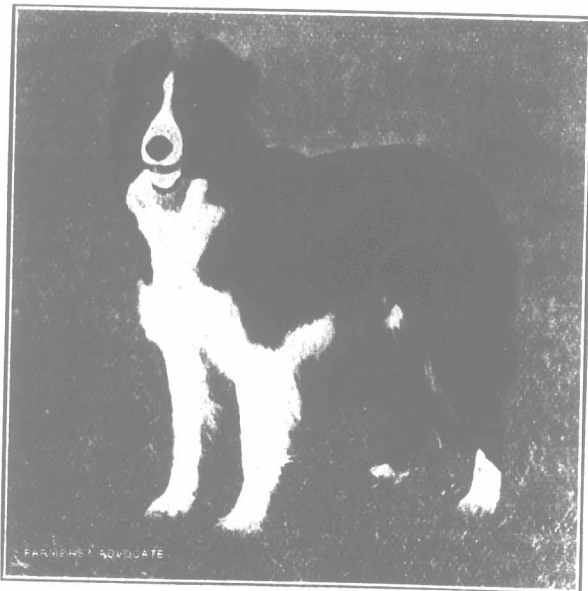
Falling back upon acknowledged authorities, we find such a writer as Sir John McNeill inclining to the opinion that the European collie has in his veins the blood of the wolf, which theory is now generally accepted. Human kindness has performed greater miracles than that of taming and training a wolf. Martin in his "History of the Dog," recognizing the same factor (domestication), goes on to show that not only was wild nature subdued and made useful and lovable, but the partial pride and care of the mountaineer in his new and valuable possession were the means of preserving through many generations the purity of the breed.

To-day we have a great variety of "kinds," the outward differences of which suggest interesting comparisons. Into this, however, we are not meantime to enter. So far as Scotland is concerned, the most popular representative (we write of working dogs) is what is known as the "Border Collie." Then there is the "Beardie"—he claims a monopoly of the Highlands and Pentlands. What people call the "Old Grey Scotch Collie"—a sort of piebald—is found, along with the more modern "Black and Tan," in all parts of the country. The yellow, long-nosed, narrow-browed "fancy" dog does not come under, our review, since he is not a competitor in the lists of intelligence.

Although the canine ally of the shepherd has not been neglected in literature, there are many traits of his character—for a character he undoubtedly has—yet unknown to the general public. He has not been overpraised. Living away in the remote places of the earth, his marvellous sagacity being witnessed only by his master, who, by usage, has ceased to wonder at his feats of wisdom, it is only on rare occasions that his dazzling merits come before the eye of an interested stranger.

How the shepherd would control his flock without the assistance of the collie, is one of those questions which seem to state an impossibility. "It would require," says Hogg, the Ettrick shepherd, "more hands to manage the sheep, gather them from the fields, force them into the houses and folds, and drive them to the markets, than the profits of the whole stock would be capable of maintaining." And all that the poor collie gets for his great—nay, incomparable—services is a little oatmeal and milk and a bed of straw. The world's noblest workers have never received so big wages.

But the true sons of the shepherds—the true sons of



The Border Collie.

Mr. R. Sandiland's (Midlothian, Scotland) Dog. This year's International champion. Weight, 44 lbs., height, 22 inches.

habitants. Already he had to admit the task was too severe, for though the spirit was willing, his limbs now commenced to ache before the day closed. Providence had granted him no child. Beneath a piece of shorn turf, bordered with daisies, in the sighing valley where his cot was situate, slept the object of his adoration, and so he felt himself an old man alone in the world. He fell asleep amid his native heath, and, the heart hungry for something to love, he dreamed that on returning from the woods he found a beautiful child seated upon the hearth of his humble home. The little stranger looked up into his face, smiled, stretched out his little chubby arms—and there was a feast of sacred joy.